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SUBJECT: DEPUTY PM STRESSES LAW, VISAS IN MEETING WITH
AMBASSADOR

1. (U) SUMMARY: In Ambassador Ashe's November 23 introductory call on Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, Ludwik Dorn, discussion focused on law and order issues but also included visas as well as next-generation national leadership. The Ambassador underscored his desire to host a luncheon for Dorn and new provincial governors sometime in Spring 2006. END SUMMARY.

Enthusiasm About Law Enforcement Cooperation

2. (U) Ambassador Ashe was one of the first to meet with Dorn in his official capacity. (Dorn was named Interior Minister October 31 and Deputy PM November 21.) After an exchange of pleasantries, Dorn immediately underscored Poland's desire to "assess and intensify" Poland's already close law enforcement cooperation with the US. Noting that the bilateral relationship had been particularly fruitful on Internal Affairs/Homeland Security, Dorn provided Ambassador with a list of possible US training and cooperative programs for Polish law enforcement officials. Ambassador recalled his success as Mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, in lowering the crime rate without busting the budget by redeploying existing police from desks to patrol cars. Dorn replied that he hoped to increase the number of cops on the beat in Poland by 50% with a similar approach. He also foreshadowed a plan to replace the Deputy Chief of Police for logistics with a civilian expert, in an effort to increase agency transparency and efficiency. Dorn also asked for US help in selecting an integrated nationwide communications system for law enforcement and emergency response services, "either the Tetra system or something else." (n.b. Under the Lockheed Martin F-16 offset program, U.S. firm Motorola and Polish partners have been seeking a no-bid tender for the Polish Tetra system. Embassy has been providing commercial advocacy in this case.)

Concern over Visas

3. (U) Ambassador thanked Dorn for Polish cooperation in the bilateral "Visa Roadmap" process, an effort to address Polish concerns over US non-immigrant visa policies, and asked Dorn's help in insuring that a DHS team coming to review the Immigration Advisory Program (IAP) at Warsaw Airport meet with the appropriate GOP officials. Dorn concurred and noted a desire to "accelerate" the Visa Roadmap. The Ambassador sympathized with Dorn's concerns and promised to keep the dialogue open with appropriate US authorities. Dorn concluded, "I do not want to burden you, but this is a problem."

The Next Generation of National Leadership

4. (U) The Ambassador noted that it was more common for city mayors to rise to national leadership in Europe than in the US. Dorn cited Adenauer, Chirac and Kaczynski as famous examples of European mayors elevated to national leadership. The two recalled that Poland's President-elect, Lech Kaczynski had mentioned that being Mayor of Warsaw was his toughest job. The Ambassador said he hoped to invite Dorn and new wojewodas (provincial governors) to lunch sometime next Spring. (n.b. The 16 wojewodas are political appointees of the government in power, under the supervision of the Minister of Interior. Dorn is expected to nominate the new wojewodas within the next two weeks.)
ASHE